

PRESS RELEASE

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EGYPTIAN ARCHAEOLOGIST LEADS OFF NOVEMBER SERIES OF GUEST LECTURES ON ANCIENT ART

Dr. Zahi Hawass, director general of Giza and Saqqara, sites of Egypt's great pyramids, will describe his recent discoveries at Giza in a free slide lecture, "Secrets of the Pyramids: Continued Revelations," at The Cleveland Museum of Art on Saturday, November 3, at 2 pm. Dr. Hawass is responsible for the preservation and protection of the complex of famous 4th dynasty (c. 2575-2465 B.C.) structures at Giza, which includes the Great Pyramid of the pharaoh Khufu (Greek "Cheops"), the pyramids of his successors Khafra (Chephren) and Menkaura (Mycerinus), the Sphinx, and temples and other buildings that served the ancient people who worked in this funerary district.

Within the last year, Dr. Hawass has made major discoveries at Giza, locating five tombs of officials, one a dwarf, involved with the building of the Great Pyramid, and uncovering the limestone causeway or royal processional way leading to it. He will discuss these finds and describe UNESCO's efforts to preserve the Sphinx.

Born in Egypt in 1947, Dr. Hawass studied archaeology at Alexandria University in Egypt. In 1980, he received a Fulbright scholarship to study at the University of Pennsylvania, where he obtained his M.A. and Ph.D. in Egyptology. Upon his return to Egypt, he served as inspector of antiquities and director of excavations at various ancient sites.

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Dr. Hawass teaches ancient Egyptian culture and archaeology at Alexandria University and is a popular lecturer on his travels in the United States as well as a consultant for publications, exhibitions, and television programs dealing with ancient Egyptian culture. In addition to his own published articles, he recently updated a new, revised edition of the famous British Egyptologist Sir W.M. Flinders Petrie's The Pyramids and Temples of Gizeh, first published in 1883. Petrie conducted the first scientific excavations at Giza, and his work is still the basic reference on this site. Copies of the new edition are for sale at the Museum Bookstore for \$30.00.

Two other slide lectures on ancient art, both free and open to the public, are scheduled at the Museum in November. On Wednesday, November 7, at 5:45 pm, Karl Kilinski II, associate professor and chairman of the department of art history at Southern Methodist University, Dallas, Texas, will lecture on "Classical Myth in Western Art: Ancient to Modern." Professor Kilinski, an authority on classical Greek vase painting, will describe how Western artists since antiquity have used subjects and themes from Greek mythology and how these have been variously interpreted over the centuries. His lecture is co-sponsored by the Archaeological Institute of America, Cleveland Chapter.

On Saturday, November 17, at 2 pm, Andrey O. Bolshakov, curator of the Egyptian collection at the Hermitage Museum, Leningrad, U.S.S.R., will speak on "Archaeological Treasures from the Hermitage Museum."

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For additional information, please contact Ann Edwards, Public Information, The Cleveland Museum of Art. Phone 216/421-7340.